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During the meeting, Meese said he regretted the incident and said the statements made in the newspaper did not originate from U.S. Department of Justice organizations, like the FBI or the DEA, and the statements do not reflect the department's opinions. Meese was accompanied to the meeting by Deputy Attorney General [as received] Steven Prott and other Justice Department officials. The Mexican ambassador was accompanied by Enrique Arenal, director of narcotics control of the Mexican Attorney General's Office and bearer of Garcia Ramirez's message.

#### DEFENSE SECRETARY WITNESSES DRUG DESTRUCTION

PA211312 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Report by Jorge Tenorio Jimenez]

[Text] Today the Mexican Army destroyed 20 tons of marijuana seized on 10 September in Guanajuato State. Mexican National Defense Secretary General Juan Arevalo Cardoqui witnessed the burning of the drug. The secretary went to the installations of the 16th military zone, in Iraguato, Guanajuato State. Afterwards, Gen Juan Arevalo Cardoqui and Federal Public Ministry Representative (Angel Hernandez Diaz) signed a document attesting this action.

The national defense secretary was interviewed and said that he has acted with loyalty.

[Begin Arevalo recording] I am a military man, and my actions as national defense secretary are beyond doubt. Most of all, I have been guided by a maximum engraved in the remotest military installation in the world, stating that the straight paths of loyalty in the Army are always straight [as heard]; loyalty to the institutions, loyalty to convictions, loyalty to the president of the Republic, loyalty to one's self, loyalty to one's friends, and, most important, great loyalty to the Mexican people. I have always worked in that spirit, with great loyalty to my people, because I am part of this people. This Army stems from the people and serves the people. I feel very satisfied to have always held this view. [end recording]

From 1983, to date the Mexican Army has destroyed 271,131 poppy fields covering 26,225 hectares. Regarding marijuana, 159,509 fields have been destroyed covering an area of 24,791 hectares. Almost 10 tons of cocaine have been incinerated this year alone, in coordination with the Attorney General's Office. Moreover, in Washington, Jorge Espinosa de Los Reyes, Mexican ambassador to the United States, and Enrique Arenal, director of narcotics control section of the Attorney General's office, met with U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese. They discussed matters regarding the publication of reports in a San Diego newspaper unfairly assailing the Mexican national defense secretary. U.S. Attorney General Meese said he regretted that incident, that it was far from the truth, and it does not reflect the views of U.S. justice agencies.

#### BRIEFS

MARIJUANA DESTROYED -- Belisario Dominguez, Chihuahua, 11 September -- Army personnel and Federal Police agents have destroyed more than 50 tons of marijuana that had been planted on 16 hectares of land 80 km from Chihuahua City. Two people who have not been identified were arrested. Apparently the marijuana plantation belonged to drug-trafficker Rafael Caro Quintero. [Summary] [Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 12 Sep 86 p A-1 PA]